

**REPORT FROM VIRGINIA**

The 2002 gathering of the Nail-Ray Association was held in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, where our Pearce and Bass ancestors lived before moving on to North Carolina and eventually Indiana. The home base for our reunion was the historic Smithfield Inn in Smithfield, Virginia. Activities included a get-together banquet and business meeting Friday evening, June 7, at Smithfield Station Marina; a bus tour of Pearce and Bass lands and related historic sites on Saturday, June 8; and worship service at historic Antioch Christian Church on Sunday morning, June 9.



Thirty-five members of the clan gathered for the Friday evening banquet and business meeting at the Smithfield Station Marina, overlooking the yacht harbor on the scenic Pagan River.

We finally got to meet our cousins the Lawsons who live in nearby Newport News, Virginia. From left to right: Cheryl Lynn (Lawson) Long, John Whitman Lawson, Sr., John Whitman Lawson, Jr., Julia Wray Lawson, Helen Fay (Wray) Lawson, Diane Rebecca (Priddy) Lawson, Jamie Lynn Long. Helen is the daughter of Robert Isom Wray. Helen and John still own the Thomas Ray-James Wray farm in Shelby County, Indiana.



Alan Monette, current owner of Basse's Choice Plantation, gives us a personal tour of the property. Captain Nathaniel Basse landed on this peninsula at the mouth of the James River in 1621. Our ancestors Tabitha (Bass) Wray, wife of James Wray, and Benjamin Bass, husband of Susannah (Ray) Bass are probably descendants of Nathaniel Basse.



St. Luke's Church, built circa 1632, the oldest surviving English church in North America. Nathaniel Basse was probably a founding member, and our ancestor George Pearce probably attended this church in the late 1600's.



Antioch Christian Church, northwest of Windsor, Isle of Wight County, Virginia. George Pearce acquired 2100 acres in this location in 1671 and another 400 acres in 1684. In 1746, John and Nathan Pearce, grandsons of George Pearce, donated 1 1/2 acres of that land to the Newport Parish for the site of this church. George Pearce is the great-grandfather of our Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray.



Seacock Swamp, near Seacock Corner, Southampton County, Virginia. George Pearce and his son Philip both patented land in this area in the early 1700's.

Bridge over Wildcat Swamp, near Faison, Northampton County, North Carolina. Nathan Pearce owned 560 acres in this area from 1754-1774. Nathan's daughter Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray was probably born here.



After church service on Sunday, fourteen of us returned to the Smithfield Inn for a farewell brunch.

**NEXT YEAR — TENNESSEE!**

James and Clarene Russell have graciously volunteered to host next year's get-together in western Tennessee. Dates for 2003 will be June 6-8. Details will be forthcoming in the April 2003 newsletter. See you in Tennessee!

## Family Members Present at the 2002 Meeting

The family of **THOMAS RAY (1762-1829) and ELIZABETH (PEARCE) RAY (1767-1844):**

From **HUDSON RAY:**

Through **Barnabas Ray:**

**David Walter Ross** (wife **Janet**), Springfield, VA  
**Billie Lee (Alcott) Rammelsberg** (husband Glen), Blairstown, IA  
**Dori (Rammelsberg) Dvorak** (husband Tom), Dysart, IA  
**Nathan Alcott Dvorak**, Dysart, IA  
**Benjamin Dvorak**, Dysart, IA

Through **Mary Ray Goodrich:**

**Richard Weakley**, Shelbyville, IN

From **JAMES WRAY:**

Through **Cherry (Wray) Nail:**

**Thomas G. Plymate** (wife Lynda), Springfield, MO  
**Robert E. Thomas** (wife Arlene), Shelbyville, IN  
**Patricia (Thomas) Montgomery** (husband Floyd), Waldron, IN  
**Helen (Wray) Lawson** (husband John, Sr.), Newport News, VA  
**John Whitman Lawson, Jr.** (wife Diane), Newport News, VA  
**Julia Wray Lawson**, Newport News, VA  
**Cheryl Lynn (Lawson) Long**, Newport News, VA  
**Jamie Lynn Long**, Newport News, VA

Through **Charles W. Wray:**

**Janis McCord**, Sultana, CA  
**Janet Thomason**, Mesa, AZ

From **GILLY RAY BYERLY:**

Through **Elizabeth Byerly Hill:**

**Katy (Morse) Bruce** (husband Bob), Kenney, IL  
**Dallas Michael Morse**, Kenney, IL  
**Joan Morse**, Kenney, IL

From **SUSANNAH (RAY) BASS:**

Through **Frances Bass Thayer:**

**Lolita (Thayer) Guthrie** (husband Mearl), Bowling Green, OH

From **MARTHA (RAY) NAIL:**

Through **Christina Nail (I) Berry:**

**James M. Russell** (wife Clarene), Collierville, TN

Through **Perlina Nail (I) Steward:**

**Janet (Morgan) Ross** (husband **David**), Springfield, VA

GUESTS:

Inez and Bill Brown, Zebulon, NC  
Paul Lippert, Shelbyville, IN

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## Members who could not attend sent their greetings:

Sue Bogardus, Kentucky	Sorry to hear of Chuck's death. If Carl were living we would be in Virginia with you. I have heart problems. Keep busy in the historical association. Love.
Hugh & Ruth Brady 15070 Lakeside View Dr. #1203 Fort Myers, Florida 33919	NEW ADDRESS. Ruth is not able to travel but improved. Have a great meeting.
Barbara Brittain, Texas	What a great weekend - wish I were with you.
Laurel Campbell 104 W. Adams Ave. Pueblo, CO 81004	In process of compiling information on descendants of Chaney Ray and Hugh Campbell. <a href="mailto:laurelcampbell@hotmail.com">laurelcampbell@hotmail.com</a>
Lillian Conrad, Florida	Wish I could be with you.
Carolyn Byland Frish 1232 Woodstock Dr. Apopka, FL 32703	Researching family of Benjamin and Malinda (Nail) Heistand. <a href="mailto:airboatmomma@aol.com">airboatmomma@aol.com</a>
Wilma Gearhart 7935 Heather Lane Vacaville, CA 95688-9637	My mother's maiden name was Nellie Blanche Alcox. Thanks so much for sending the Nail-Ray information over the years. I am 88 and live alone.
Patricia Lorentzen, California	Planned to attend - illness altered plans. Best wishes to all.
Rhoda & Harold Mackenzie 2111 Hallmark Ct Wheaton, IL 60187	This is a relatively new address.
Richard Mansfield, Oregon	Hello to all.
David & Kelly Meyer, Utah	Hello to all - sounds like a great weekend.
David S. Nail Rolla, Missouri <a href="mailto:dnail@usgs.gov">dnail@usgs.gov</a>	"Just getting started tracing my roots." [Note: Dave was a geology student of mine in the early 1980's at SMSU. He's now working for the USGS in Rolla. He is a descendant of John Nail and Martha (Ray) Nail. Small world! TGP]
Mario & Dee Nelson, Minnesota	What a great weekend.
Eleanor Neumayer 407 Russell Ave. #801 Gaithersburg, MD 20877	NEW ADDRESS. Will be celebrating 92 <sup>nd</sup> birthday in August. Really appreciates all the wonderful pictures in the Nail-Ray newsletters.

Emma Nolting, Indiana	Will miss being with you.
Donald & Bethany Roberts	What a wonderful trip.
Julia Sherer, Illinois	Doing better, but still too weak to travel. Wish I could be with you in Virginia.
Beverly Snodgrass, Indiana	Surgery on May 14th keeps me at home and not in Virginia. Love you.
Barbara Snow, Virginia	Have fun.
Lenore Stanton, Maine	Best wishes for a wonderful reunion. I am grateful for the wonderful newsletters that come. Enjoy.
Mark Thomas, Indiana	Hope you have a great day. Have a daughter graduating from High School.
Dale & Ava Wearmouth, Iowa	My mother Opal Wearmouth died February 8, 2002, Winterset, Iowa. We will be thinking of you.
Mary Ann Williamson, Texas	Hope to see you all some day.

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**Gone But Not Forgotten:**

This year we mourn the loss of eight of our long-time members:

Shirley Calame, Witt, Illinois  
 Julia Chesser, Shelbyville, Indiana  
 Charles E. Nail, Noblesville, Indiana  
 Lawrence Nail, Martinsville, Indiana  
 Thelma Russell, Oxford, Mississippi  
 Martha C. Sweatt, Decatur, Georgia  
 Opal Wearmouth, Lorimore, Iowa  
 F. Allen Wray, Pleasanton, California

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**Lost Souls:**

Newsletters to the following members have been returned with no forwarding address. If you know the whereabouts of any of these individuals, please let us know.

Anderson, Mr. Lynn	4405 67 <sup>th</sup> Street	Urbandale, IA 50322
Baker, Harold		Wagoner, IL 62562
Barclay, Bonnie	8224 Shoemaker Drive	Marysville WA 98271
Berthouex, Amy T.	1490 Central	Memphis, TN 38104-4906
Bonnette, Mrs. R. S.	3232 Magevney St.	Memphis, TN 38128-6533
Byerly, Devron	516 Malvern Ave	Fullerton, CA 92832
Chase, Mrs. Robert C.	142 DeAnza Circle	Ontario, CA 91761
Cleveland, Esther	1509 E First	Streaton, IL 61364-1703
Cobler, Ken & Laura	435 Riverside Chase Circle	Greer, SC 29650
Engleman, Ivan M.	P O Box 4417	Casper, WY 82604
Enright, Mrs. E. J	6202 Scenic Drive	Yakima, WA 98908
Eyman, Mrs. Clarence	R R 3 Box 138	Morrisonville, IL62516
Gates, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth	3597 Urbana	Mira Loma, CA 92752
Gregg, Mrs. Charles R	2734 S. Peach Hollow Circle	Pearland TX 77584
Gregory, Elsie C.	640 Greencastle Rd	Mooreville, IN 46185
Haen, Susan J.	1880 Cliffview Court	Oshkosh, WI 54901-2502
Hubard, William S.	2202 Carter Rd/ SW	Roanoke, VA 24015-3522
LaFrenier, Mrs. William	P O Box 1627 416 McKenzie St	Yelm, WA 98597
Lancaster, Dorothy	R. R. 3 Box 86B	Carlinville, IL 62626-9533
Luke, Mrs. Thomas M.	134 Kelly Cove	Jackson, MS 39212-3522
Mincher, Mrs. Richard	2004 Watson Street	Fort Worth, TX 76103
Morgan, A Clement	105 Wood Stone Dr	Vicksburg MS 39180
Nail, Clarence S	16121 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Clear Lake CA 95422
Nail, Larry	608 1 <sup>st</sup> St	Rock Rapids IA 51246
Overton, Melvin L.	R. R. 3	Indianola, IA 50125
Rees, Mrs Harvey	P O Box 242	Abingdon IL 61410
Richardson, John B.	Route 2, Box 35	Byhalia, MS 38611
Rowe, Nell R.	845 Great Oaks Drive	Horn Lake, MS 30637
Shaw, Mary	R R 2	Clinton IL 61727
Smith, June Brower	301 10 <sup>th</sup> St	Crystal City MO 63019
Thompson, Mrs Edna	720 Seneca St. #416	Seattle WA 98101
Thompson, Mrs. Joseph A. Jr.	1541 Marshal Lane	Conyers, GA 30208-2593
Thrasher, Kay	6302 E 12 <sup>th</sup>	Wichita KS 67208
Walberg, Teresa	6009 N Kings Highway	Alexandria, VA 22303

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If you have not yet paid your dues (\$10) for 2002 and want to stay on our Mailing List, please send them to

NAIL-RAY ASSOCIATION  
 2442 W. Boggstown Road  
 Shelbyville, IN 46176